

Remarks

Amendments to the claims

Claims 18, 20 and 21 have been amended, and claims 16, 17 and 19 have been cancelled, as indicated above. Specifically, claims 18, 20 and 21 have been rewritten in independent form, to include all of the limitations of the base claim, and any intervening claim, from which they originally depended.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16, 17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,923,445 ("Leou").

Claims 16, 17 and 19 have been cancelled, and therefore the rejection of those claims is now moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-15 and 22-38 have been allowed.* Claims 18, 20 and 21 have been objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim, and any intervening claim, from which they originally depended.

As indicated above, claims 18, 20 and 21 have been amended to put them in allowable form. Accordingly, the Applicant requests that the objection to these claims be removed and the claims be allowed.

*The Applicant notes that 39 claims were filed with the original application, as evidenced by the published application (see U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030081267), yet the Office action only indicates that 38 claims are pending. The Applicant believes that the Examiner inadvertently forgot to list claim 39, but would have allowed claim 39 as claim 39 depends from claim 35, which has been allowed. (It is axiomatic that a claim which depends from an allowed claim is also allowable.)

The Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability of the indicated claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, the Applicants believe that the indicated claims are allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

Fee For Extra Claims

The fee for two (2) additional independent claims is to be charged to Applicant's deposit account, as indicated on the attached Transmittal form.

Summary

The Applicant believes that this response constitutes a full and complete response to the Office action, and therefore requests that the Office issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-15, 18, and 20-39. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed representative if the Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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